

On page 9, line 25 of the specification please substitute the heading as follows.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

2. (Amended) The image decoding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the moving picture sequence is a video object layer comprising moving image objects of given shapes.

3. (Amended) The image decoding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the moving picture sequence is a video object plane group constituting a video object layer comprising moving image objects of given shapes.

Please add the following new claims.

-- 20. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein said multiplexing includes for each moving picture sequence, when the intra-coded indicator information indicates that all the images contained in the moving picture sequence are to be intra coded, display time multiplex identification information that indicates whether display time information of all the images contained in the moving picture sequence is to be multiplexed or not, and multiplexes for each moving picture sequence, when the display time multiplex identification information indicates that the display time information of all

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at the images contained in the moving picture sequence is to be multiplexed, the display time information of all the images contained in the moving picture sequence. --